

NPS guidelines. The immediacy of first-hand accounts of the issues of the past provide connections to the present.

Also in *CRM*, "Researching and Writing a History of Natural Resources Management," by Richard Sellars, includes his frustration and concern regarding the difficulties in gaining research access to NPS records.

It seems important not to rely solely on official reports and policy pronouncements but to determine what prompted them and identify differences of opinion.

Overall, the records situation gives clear and irrefutable evidence that the Park Service, which prides itself in presenting major historic sites to the American people, has not taken sufficient pride in its own history to develop a professional records program. 5

The two-year survey underway is a first step to focus attention on this issue and assist parks in managing and gaining the benefits of access to their documentary resources. Based on the needs identified by parks and centers, a basic standard operating procedure will be prepared at the conclusion of the project which will outline recommendations, list guidelines available, and resources available to NPS staff in records management.

The continued preservation and integrity of park resources is dependent on the preservation and integrity of their associated documentation. These records provide a key to answering countless questions.

Notes

1. Dilsaver, Lary, "Administrative History for History and Administration," *CRM* Vol. 16. No.1. 1993:6-7.
 2. NPS-28, *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, National Park Service, History Division, 1994: 145.
 3. "Administrative History—A Management Tool," *CRM* Vol.16. No.1. 1993:1,5.
 4. "Publishing Administrative Histories," *CRM* Vol.16. No.1. 1993:13,16.
 5. "Researching and Writing a History of Natural Resources Management," *CRM* Vol.16. No.1. 1993:4,24.
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Kent Bush

Museum Collections in the Columbia Cascades Cluster

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument was authorized in 1974 to preserve a unique series of fossil beds in the John Day Valley of central Oregon. These fossil beds are some of the most diverse Miocene deposits in the world, and provide specimens of previously unidentified plants and animals of that era. Over the past decade paleontologist/curator Ted Fremd has sponsored the use of the park collections with numerous museums and universities.

Every fossil specimen must be considered as unique, even when there appear to be numerous examples (such as shark teeth or trilobites) extending even to the commercial market. This is particularly true of the more complex life forms from the more recent, species diverse, geologic periods. There have been cases in the paleontological community where a single, partial specimen can provide sufficient documentation to identify a new species of plant or animal.

It is in this context that curators such as Ted Fremd foster the scientific use of comparative col-

lections, largely through providing universities and museums with reproductions of specimens taken from molds of the originals. While this technique has also been used to duplicate some of the more rare stone tools from archeological investigations, the extensive use of molds to create study collections is particular to the science of paleontology. Because of their importance to the development of modern species, these reproductions of the fossil collections of John Day are well represented in teaching and exhibit collections in universities and museums around the world.

Authorized in 1965, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Idaho, is the only unit in the park system that commemorates an extant American Indian group. Consisting of 38 separate sites, the park preserves and interprets the history of the Nez Perce people, and their relationship with the developing European settlement of the Northwest. The park is the Nez Perce Tribe's "repository of choice" for the maintenance of archeological collections. Many of the ethnographic and historic items in the park collection are on loan from the

Nez Perce Tribe. The park also holds archival material (including the Nez Perce Allotment Book) as well as an extensive historic photograph collection.

The management of the museum collection at the park represents a true cooperative venture between the National Park Service and the Nez Perce Tribe. The park realizes that many of the objects in the collections have special significance to the Nez Perce, and actively promotes the use of the collections by tribal members. The Seven-Drums Society performs an annual ceremony to assure the continued spiritual health of the items in the collection, and the people who work there. There is a continuous use of the ethnographic material by individuals researching traditional clothing styles and beadwork patterns, as there is of the historic photographs. Many Nez Perce have also located photos of their grandparents and great-grandparents in the photo collections. The archival collection has established linear descent for such things as land claims, and early sound recordings in the archives serve to document specific chants and dances.

Recently, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Washington, dedicated a reconstruction of the 1844 building used by the Hudson Bay Company to process and store furs for shipment to

Great Britain. The Fur Store features a reconstructed fur press and sample pelts, but most of the building contains a modern curatorial facility that will house a study collection of archeological-material from at least four Hudson Bay Company sites in the Columbia Cascades Cluster.

Included in this study collection will be material from Fort Vancouver, Fort Colville, Fort Nez Perce, and Bellevue Farm, all Hudson Bay Company sites within park boundaries in the Columbia Cascades Cluster. After the collections are transferred and installed, about two million objects will be available for comparison and study.

The Center also contains a public interpretive exhibit illustrating the archeological and curatorial methods that establish comparative collections. This exhibit area features a "window wall" that looks into the center's curatorial laboratory and collection processing area, allowing the public a seldom seen glimpse of object preservation and cataloging work in progress.

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The use of objects, specimens, and artifacts comes with pitfalls as well as rewards. Although the National Park Service has been using collections for years for documentation, research, and exhibits, there are still countless ways that we can continue to use them and learn from the experience of others. Not all of the examples in the following articles can be universally applied, but all can be used as springboards to trigger new ideas, sharing the wealth of experience among museum curators.

Bess Gibbs

A Used Collection Still in Use

More than 12,000 books fill the floor-to-ceiling shelves that cover walls in every room of the house, except the kitchen. Magazines and journals are in piles on the floor and table tops, newspaper and magazine clippings overflow cardboard boxes from the grocery store, and letters, papers, and handwritten notes fill drawers and organizers in the writer's upstairs study. It is the lifetime accumulation¹ of writer Carl Sandburg who moved in 1945 to Connemara, an antebellum

estate in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

This move was the beginning of a major departure from the past for Carl Sandburg. After a lifetime spent in the mid-west and almost 20 years in the Michigan dune country, the "Chicago" poet was moving south. Sandburg was born and grew up in Galesburg,

Carl Sandburg poem courtesy Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

